

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Final Office Action mailed on June 22, 2006 and the Advisory Action mailed September 26, 2006.

Claims 2-5, 11, 12, 24, and 26 are amended. Claims 1, 10, 23, and 30 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. As a result, claim 2-9, 11-13, 24-29, and 31 are now pending in this application.

§102 and §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 23-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by DiStefano et al. (U.S. 5,801,446, hereinafter referred to as DiStefano ‘446).

Claims 1-9 and 30-31 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either DiStefano ‘446 or DiStefano ‘754 as applied to claim 23 above in view of Wei et al. (U.S. 5,703,394 hereinafter referred to as Wei).

Claims 10-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either DiStefano et al. in view of Wei et al. (U.S. 5,703,394) as applied above, and further in view of Marrs.

Claims 28-29 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either one of DiStefano et al. in view of Marrs (U.S. 5,795,818).

Applicant does not admit that DiStefano ‘446/DiStefano ‘754 /Wei/ Marrs, whether considered individually or in the proposed combination, are prior art with respect to the claims of the present applicant.

Applicant maintains all argument presented in all previous amendment and responses. However, Applicant amends some of the claims and cancels some other claims without disclaimer or prejudice to move the application forward.

Applicant also rewrites the allowable claims 11, 12 and 31 in independent claims, as suggested in the Advisory Action. The rewriting does not alter the scope of claims 11, 12 and 30. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 11 and its dependent claims 2 and 3, claim 12 and its dependent claims 4-9, and claim 31 and its dependent claims 24-29 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 17th day of October 2006.

Amy Moriarty
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Signature